

Resolution (2)

220206

Proposal: Remove Unit 73BCWD from the Herd Reduction Zone

History of CWD since the inception of CWD zones

The special CWD zones were established in two forms. An eradication zone was established around the central concentration of the disease and reduction zone was established as a buffer to the core area as a potential area for spread of the disease. Unit 73BCWD is located in the reduction zone. There have not been any reported positive cases of the disease in 73BCWD since the zones were established. The closest positive result was a single deer in 2002 which was harvested in the eradication zone in Iowa County approximately 15 miles from the 73BCWD boundary. All other positives since that time have shown a trend of movement to the north and east away from unit 73BCWD. We do feel continued testing of the herd is a vital component in fighting the disease but that units without positives should be removed from special CWD zones.

Harvest Data in unit 73BCWD

The last four years show an average ratio of 2.52 antlerless to antlered deer harvested. That average declined to just under 2 in 2005 due to excellent hunting conditions and a lack of Earn a Buck (EAB) restrictions. Although the ratio declined, 73BCWD recorded the second highest ratio of all CWD units that had harvests over 50 deer. Since the harvest numbers over the last four years have remained steady, this comparison shows a willingness and understanding of the need to harvest antlerless deer without special requirements. The majority of the harvest still continues to be during the traditional nine day season with the extended period showing a tendency toward harvesting bucks which does little to lower deer numbers. We do feel that continued harvesting of antlerless deer is a very important component in reducing numbers and maintaining a healthy herd.

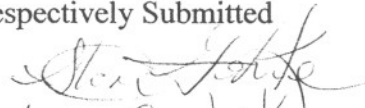
Quality of the Hunt

We feel the lengthy and multiple season openers have decreased the excitement and intensity of the hunt for all hunters. Landowners favor the traditional nine day season due to safety concerns and trespassing issues. Elimination of 73BCWD unit would once again simplify the boundary for the unit that was previously established for unit 73B.

Conclusion

Due to the number of samples collected and the lack of positive samples, it appears the disease is not present in the zone or spreading in its direction and 73BCWD can be removed from the Herd Reduction Zone. The harvest numbers indicate hunters will continue to harvest deer regardless of sex with the majority of the harvest occurring during the nine day season. Hunters and landowners alike prefer the nine day season over extended seasons.

Respectively Submitted


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